

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 THE HA 01977 01 OF 02 101056Z

14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-11 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-07

/087 W

----- 014749

R 091455Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7954

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 THE HAGUE 1977

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NATO, NL, US

SUBJ: VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ELLSWORTH

1. SUMMARY: DURING VISIT TO THE HAGUE APRIL 8, DEPSECDEF
ELLSWORTH HAD USEFUL SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH FONMIN, DEFMIN AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 THE HA 01977 01 OF 02 101056Z

CHAIRMAN JOINT STAFF. DUTCH OFFICIALS, SPEAKING WITH USUAL

FRANKNESS, EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT ABILITY FOR COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE NETHERLANDS TO MAINTAIN DEFENSE SPENDING AT CURRENT PERCENTAGE LEVELS INTO 1980'S, PRESSED FOR CONTINUING US COMMITMENT TO STANDARDIZATION AND FOR NEW LOOK AT RATIONALIZATION, AND SHARPLY QUESTIONED COST-EFFECTIVENESS AND VULNERABILITY STUDIES OF AWACS. EMBASSY JUDGES VISIT TO HAVE BEEN MOST USEFUL. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES MAIN POINTS COVERED IN VARIOUS MEETINGS: FONMIN VAN DER STOEL RAISED ISSUE OF CRUISE MISSILES AS ELEMENT IN SALT AND ASKED FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF MISSILES IMPORTANCE. DEPSECDEF SAID THAT CRUISE MISSILES WERE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCE WHICH SHOULD RAISE NUCLEAR THRESHOLD. FONMIN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE SOME PRACTICAL RESULTS IN SALT THIS YEAR IN VIEW OF DIFFICULTIES WHICH SURROUNDED NEGOTIATIONS IN AN ELECTION YEAR.

3. COMMENTING ON ALLIANCE POLITICS, VAN DER STOEL EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER QUARRELS AMONG MEMBERS--GREECE-TURKEY AND UK-ICELAND. HE SAID THAT LOSS OF ICELAND TO ALLIANCE WOULD BE A MAJOR BLOW. BECAUSE OF SOVIET MANEUVERS REGARDING SPITSBERGEN, NORWEGIANS FEEL THAT THEY ARE COMING UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE. WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHAT HE HAD IN MIND, FONMIN SAID THAT NATO SHOULD BE PREPARED TO BE OF MORE HELP IN SUCH SITUATIONS.

4. FONMIN SAID THAT HE THOUGHT GON HAD DONE A REASONABLE JOB IN CONTINUING ITS COMMITMENT TO COMMON DEFENSE. IT WAS HIS OPINION THAT DUTCH DEFENSE STRUCTURE WAS IN BETTER SHAPE NOW THAN WHEN THIS GOVERNMENT TOOK OVER, BUT THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF DEFENSE NOTE REQUIRED CONSTANT ATTENTION. WHILE SAVINGS WOULD NECESSARILY BE SMALL AT FIRST, IT WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CONTINUE AND INCREASE EFFORTS TOWARD STANDARDIZATION. THE FRENCH SEEMED A BIT MORE FLEXIBLE THESE DAYS AND THAT WAS

ENCOURAGING. ELLSWORTH COMMENTED THAT IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE MAKE BEST USE OF OUR RESOURCES, BUT THAT IT OFTEN SEEMED AS IF US AND THE NETHERLANDS WERE ALONE IN PUSHING STANDARDIZATION.

5. VAN DER STOEL SAID THAT GON HOPED THAT OUTSTANDING F-16 QUESTIONS COULD BE RESOLVED QUICKLY SO AS TO SILENCE CRITICS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 THE HA 01977 01 OF 02 101056Z

HERE ONCE AND FOR ALL. EACH DELAY IN PROGRAM OR SNAG IN IRONING OUT CO-PRODUCTION ISSUES GAVE THEM OPPORTUNITY TO BRING WHOLE F-16 PURCHASE DECISION INTO QUESTION AGAIN. DEPSECDEF EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GON WOULD SEE WAY CLEAR TO SUPPORT AWACS PROGRAM IN PRINCIPLE, AT LEAST TO EXTENT OF POSSIBLY MANING A GROUND STATION. FOREIGN MINISTRY NATO CHIEF SAID THAT DUTCH AIR FORCE WAS CONCERNED THAT COST EFFECTIVENESS OF SYSTEM HAD NOT BEEN FULLY ASSESSED. AIR FORCE WAS ALSO CONCERNED THAT DUTCH PARTICIPATION

WOULD FORCE THEM SACRIFICE SOMETHING ELSE. DEPSECDEF REPLIED THAT SYSTEM WAS COST EFFECTIVE AND THAT IT DID NOT REPRESENT A TRADE OFF ITEM.

6. AT CLOSE OF CONVERSATION, ELLSWORTH ASKED FONMIN ABOUT HIS RECENT TRIP TO BUDAPEST (THE HAGUE 0950). VAN DER STOEL SAID THAT PUJA HAD TAKEN VERY TOUGH LINE STRESSING IDEOLOGICAL COMPETITION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. IN VIEW OF THAT ATTITUDE, VAN DER STOEL ASKED HIM WHAT WAS THE USE OF DETENTE.

7. DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH CHAIRMAN OF JOINT STAFF WIJTING AND GON COORDINATOR OF INTELLIGENCE KRUMINK, DEPSECDEF OUTLINED PRESIDENTS RECENT DIRECTIVES RELATING TO THE US INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AND COMMENTED ON THE JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE US DEFENSE BUDGET. ELLSWORTH POINT OUT THAT, DESPITE FACT THAT THE DEFENSE BUDGET WAS THE LARGEST IN US HISTORY, IT HAD MET WITH VERY LITTLE CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION, A FACT WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO A BETTER PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL AWARENESS OF GROWING SOVIET THREAT.

8. GENERAL WIJTING, WHO PREFACED HIS REMARKS BY STATING THAT HE PERSONALLY FAVORED AWACS EVER SINCE HE HAD FLOWN IT THREE YEARS AGO, NEVERTHELESS EXPRESSED GRAVE DOUBTS ABOUT WAY IN WHICH AWACS WAS BEING PUSHED. NATO WORKING GROUP IV STUDY DID NOT PROVIDE A BASIS FOR A POSITIVE DUTHC DECISION. IN FACT STUDY RAISED MANY QUESTIONS AS TO CAPABILITIES OF AWACS. WHAT WAS THE USE OF J SYSTEM WHICH COULD NOT DETERMINE ALTITUDE OF AN AIRCRAFT CLOSER THAN PLUS-MINUS 10,000 FEET? COST EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES WERE INCOMPLETE. NATO DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH DATA AT ITS COMMAND TO DETERMINE WHERE AWACS STANDS IN RELATION TO OTHER HIGH PRIORITY ITEMS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 THE HA 01977 02 OF 02 100814Z

14
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-11 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-07

/087 W
----- 012416

R 091455Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7955
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 THE HAGUE 1977

9. WIJTING'S COMMENTS WERE IN LINE WITH QUESTIONS PUT TO DOD
AWACS BRIEFING TEAM BY DUTCH OFFICIALS PREVIOUS DAY. IT WAS
CLEAR THAT WIJTING WAS GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF
HAVING TO GIVE UP SOMETHING IN CURENT OR FUTURE DEFENSE BUDGETS
IN ORDER TO FIND MONEY TO PARTICIPATE IN AWACS. ELLSWORTH
STRESSED POINT THAT AWACS WAS CRITICALLY NEEDED NEW SYSTEM WHICH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 THE HA 01977 02 OF 02 100814Z

COULD COUNTER SERIOUS THREAT FROM NEW SOVIET LOW-LEVEL ATTACK
CAPABILITY. AWACS MUST BE FUNDED WITHOUT SACRIFICING OTHER
DEFENSE NEEDS.

10. LUNCHEON DISCUSSIONS WITH DEFMIN VREDELING AND STATE SEC
FOR DEFENSE STEMERDINK MAINLY CENTERED ON WELL KNOWN DUTCH
ENTHUSIASM FOR STANDARDIZATION. VREDELING, AS IS HIS WONT, TOOK
OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION DEPSECDEF ABUT DEFENSE DOCTRINE,
ACCURACY OF US ESTIMATES OF SOVIET THREAT, AND TACTICAL NUCLEAR
WEAPONS--THEIR ROLE AS A DETERRENT AND RELATIONSHIP TO CONVEN-
TIONAL WEAPONS.

11. AS HAD VAN DER STOEL EARLIER, VREDELING EMPHASIZED
SERIOUSNESSAND THOROUGHNESS WITH WHICH GONOOKS AT DEFENSE.
DUTCH DEFENSE NOTEREPRESNETED A FIRST REAL EFFOR TO PLAN
AHEAD FOR A 10 YEAR PERIOD. IT WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR
TO DEFMIN THAT NO DUTCH GOVERNMENT COUD CONTINUE TO MAKE THE
SAME PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION TO DEFENSE IN THE 1980'S AS WAS

BEING DONE NOW. THAT WOULD PROVE TO BE TRUE WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE CONSERVATIVE OR SOCIALIST. IT WAS THUS INCUMBENT UPON PRESNET GOVERNMENT TO PLAN AHEAD SO AS TO TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT. IT WAS A PROBLEM WHICH HE SAW AS ARISING OUT OF INCREASING COSTS ON THE ONE HAND, AND DUPLICATION AND WASTE ON THE OTHER. STANDARDIZATION AND RATIONALIZATION WERE THE ONLY ANSWERS.

12. IN THIS REGARD, DEFMIN PROPOSED THAT A SMALL GROUP OF MODS FROM FOUR TO SIX COUNTRIES (US, NETHERLANDS, UK, NORWAY, DENMARK, AND FRG) PLAN TO MEET TOGETHER PRIVATELY IN THE FALL TO DISCUSS RATIONALIZATION POSSIBILITIES. MEETING SHOUD BE HELD AFTER EUROPEANS HAD DRAWN UP AD PRESENTED THEIR DEFENSE BUDGETS SO AS TO MINIMIZE POLITICAL PRESSURES.

13. DESPITE SERIOUS TOPICS WHICH WERE RAISED, CONVERSATIONS WERE MARKED BY GREAT CANDOR AND FRIENDLINESS. EMBASSY CONSIDERS VISIT BY DEPSECDEF TO HAVE BEEN HIGHLY USEFUL AND GREATLY APPRECIATED BY DUTCH.
GOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976THEHA01977
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760136-0522
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760476/aaaacmrh.tel
Line Count: 243
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <01 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ELLSWORTH
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NL, US, NATO, (ELLSWORTH, ROBERT)
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006